



Rifles & POOLS

HOOSIER RIVERWATCH-INDIANA'S VOLUNTEER WATER MONITORING PROGRAM

Summer Training Workshops

Riverwatch has been “on-the-go” since May conducting workshops throughout Indiana. Thus far we have conducted 27 full-day training workshops and trained 330 volunteers in water quality monitoring. We have 15 more workshops scheduled through October, which means we will be holding at least 42 training workshops this year! (Check out the schedule on page 2.)

We couldn't provide high quality training without the assistance of our local hosts and sponsors, who find the site, handle registration, and send confirmation letters and maps to the participants. We would like to thank each of our local hosts now!

Thanks!

Patti Schmid - NREC, Fort Harrison S.P.
 Rachel Wilson - Randolph County SWCD
 Sandra Wilmore - Save the Dunes
 Libby Callicoat - Save the Dunes
 Amy Carpenter - Jefferson County SWCD
 Cheryl Kline - Huntington County SWCD
 Judy Buttice - Cass County SWCD
 Marquita Manley - McCormick's Creek
 Mary Cutler - Tippecanoe Parks & Rec.
 Dan Shephardson - Purdue ENVISION
 Paul Steury - Merry Lea Env. Center
 Jim Parry - Ruth Lilly YMCA
 Andrea Bongen - Decatur County SWCD
 Leah Rae Harden - Clinton County SWCD
 Nancy Brown - Elkhart County SWCD
 Missy Shaber - Lawrence County SWCD
 Jennifer Sobecki - Montgomery Co. SWCD
 Jan Stout - Miami County SWCD
 Ann Ice - Gibson County SWCD
 Roy Ortiz - Hammond Env. Ed. Center
 Minnetrista Cultural Center

2001 & 2002 Grant Applications

Good news! We've recently had enough monitoring equipment returned that we can provide 8 more grants this year (5 standard and 3 advanced). Indiana schools, non-profits, and governmental agencies are eligible to apply. Priority for these “new” 2001 grants will be given to applicants who have already attended Level 1 and/or Level 2 training workshops. The deadline is **September 21**. Applications received, but not awarded, will be considered for a 2002 water monitoring equipment grant.

We also have applications available for year 2002 grants. The deadline for these applications is **March 15, 2002**. Grant recipients must monitor at least 4 times a year for 2 years, and submit data. Equipment grants include materials needed to conduct physical, biological and chemical stream sampling. You can apply for one of the following grants:

- ◆ **Standard** - Includes the GREEN/LaMotte Standard Water Monitoring Kit; suitable for elementary and middle school students and adults desiring simpler chemistry.
- ◆ **Advanced** - Includes the Hach Stream Survey Test Kit; ideal for high school and adult groups desiring higher quality monitoring results.

Applications are available on the web at www.IN.gov/dnr/soilcons/riverwatch or you can call, fax, or email Riverwatch to request a copy.



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Special Topics Workshop

The participants at the first special topics workshop rated the training as "Excellent"! Experts presented *E.coli* testing using EASYGEL, macroinvertebrate ID, and fish ID. The next special topics workshop will be held **Friday, September 21**, at Spring Mill State Park in Mitchel. It will be held from 10am-3pm, and is free. To register, contact Missy Shaber at the Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District at 812/279-8117 x3.



2001 Training Schedule

All Level 1 & 2 training workshops scheduled at this point are listed below. For the most current listing, check the Riverwatch website: www.IN.gov/dnr/soilcons/riverwatch. If you would like more information about scheduling a workshop in your area, please contact us at 317/541-0617 or email Mandy at riverinfo@dnr.state.in.us.

August 30, 31 (Levels 1 & 2) Hardy Lake - Contact Jeff Fant, Quick Creek Watershed Coordinator at 812/273-2070 x111 or jeff-fant@iaswcd.org.

September 5, 6 (Level 1 & 2) - Elkhart County- Contact Nancy Brown at the Elkhart County SWCD 219/533-4383 x3.

September 6 (Level 1) Tippecanoe Battlefield, Lafayette - Contact Mary Cutler at 765/567-2993.

September 15 (Level 1) September 22 (Level 2) Dearborn County-Contact Cynthia Merrill 812/537-1277; cynthiam@bigfoot.com.

September 22 (Level 1) Minnetrista Cultural Center, Muncie - Call 765/213-3549.

September 28 (Level 2) Farmland, Randolph Co. - Contact Rachel Wilson at the Randolph County SWCD 765/584-4505 x3.

October 2, 3 (Level 1 & 2) Hammond Environmental Ed Center Call 219/853-2420.

October 12, 13 (Level 1 & 2) Ft Harrison State Park, Indianapolis - Contact Patti Schmid at the NREC at 317/562-1338.



Training sessions are open to any interested adult; contact the local host to register. Although workshops are free, you must register in advance due to class size limits. Each workshop is held from 9am-4pm. Level 1 Introductory training completes the requirements to begin monitoring. Level 2 training is for more advanced educators and volunteers.

4 More Volunteer Water Monitoring Instructors

Four more enthusiastic Hoosier Riverwatch volunteers became certified Volunteer Water Monitoring Instructors at a two-day overnight training held at the Fellowship of Christian Athletes National Conference Center near Marshall, Indiana on August 3-4. The Volunteer Instructors will perform Level 1 & 2 training workshops and serve as local contacts for volunteers.

If you or your group would like training, monitoring assistance, to obtain the latitude and longitude of your stream site using a GPS receiver, or need answers to your water monitoring questions - contact your local Volunteer Instructor. We now have eleven Volunteer Instructors throughout the state, contact Riverwatch to learn if one is in your area!



(David Emery, Rick Obenshain, Sylvia Hottel, George Cairns)

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Floyd County SWCD
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swcdfloyd@aol.com

George Cairns
Save the Dunes
Porter County
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gcairns@home.com

If you think you might like to be a Volunteer Water Monitoring Instructor, contact us to receive a "job description and application form." The next all-expenses-paid training workshop will be held in **March or April 2002**. The exact dates and training site have not yet been selected, but we are looking at Camp Alexander Mack (in Kosciusko County).

The application deadline is February 15, 2002.

What's Up Grant Recipients?

Since 1996, nearly 350 grants for water monitoring equipment (worth more than \$100,000) have been awarded to Hoosier Riverwatch volunteer groups. In an effort to help grantees meet their requirements, we recently sent the first annual "update letter" to grant recipients detailing the number of data sets submitted and grant reports received in the Riverwatch office.

Grant recipients make a commitment to monitor at least 4 times per year (with one month between sampling dates, thus you can't do all 4 in one month) and submit quarterly grant reports for two years (for a total of 8 reports). Stream monitoring events don't have to take place each quarter. However, we still need to know if the equipment was used for other purposes (e.g., demonstration, education) or if there were "no activities this quarter". This helps hold us all more accountable.

We are also trying to retrieve equipment from groups who are no longer participating in the program. We always have new groups interested in receiving grant equipment, and we can redistribute old equipment to get more Hoosiers involved in testing and protecting Indiana's water quality!

Improve Your E.coli Tests

At the first special topics workshop, we learned how to identify *E.coli* colonies from the man who invented EASYGEL, Dr. Jonathan Roth. We discovered that the colonies may appear purple or dark blue in color. Dr. Roth also explained that the colonies are easier to read if you place the plates in an incubator and read them after 24 hours (instead of 48 hours at room temperature). He provided us with information on an inexpensive incubator. The Hova-Bator, thermal flow incubator is available from GQF Manufacturing at 912/236-0651 or from their website at www.GQFmfg.com. It is catalog number 1602N and sells for \$37.95. Dimensions are 18"x18"x7.5" and it weighs about 4 lbs.

Interesting Websites


An Interactive Watershed Activity designed for grade 3 and up:
www.1.imn.edu/bellmuse/mnideals/watershed/watershed2.html

Acrobat file of Indiana's complete list of water quality standards:
www.epa.gov/ost/standards/wqslibrary/in/in.html


Follow a fifth grade teacher from Indiana as he canoes down the Wabash River through his Internet River Adventure:
www.msdlc.k12.in.us/ses/rivindex.htm


Lake Associations Can Use Riverwatch Too!

Hoosier Riverwatch also helps protect Indiana lakes. Although Indiana has an excellent volunteer lake monitoring program, lakes can benefit by participating in volunteer stream monitoring, as well. Currently 15 lake associations are utilizing Riverwatch. Here are a few examples:


 The Wawasee Area Conservancy Foundation is monitoring 5-6 sites in their watershed. They are looking at trends, identifying potential problem areas, monitoring the effects of Best Management Practices, and collecting data to help obtain grants for

professional studies and watershed protection.


 The Tipton Lakes Community is a chain of 3 private lakes that are 10-15 years old. Their goals are for good fishing and swimming, and protection of downstream water quality. They are checking for signs of runoff from their subdivision, impacts from chemicals used for weed control, and *E.coli* levels. They have received permits for control of geese to keep *E.coli* levels in check at their beach.


 The Bremen Conservation Club and Lake of the Woods Property Owners

are testing seven inlet sites and one outlet. They are concerned with nonpoint source agricultural runoff and golf course inputs. They are cooperating with their local health department in *E.coli* monitoring.

 Wood-Land-Lakes RC&D has provided support for 13-15 lake groups monitoring water quality in NE Indiana for the past 4-5 years. As the volunteers collected more data and became more educated, they discovered their water quality was not as bad as they originally suspected. When problems were discovered, they

partnered with a local university to perform further testing. Then they talked individually with the polluters to explain their impacts. They continue to monitor to establish baseline conditions and trends for their waterways.

 The Steuben County Lakes Council works with multiple lakes. They are monitoring point source pollution effects of a Waste Water Treatment Plant and Combined Sewer Overflow during base flow conditions and after storm events.

 Do you know a lake that could benefit from Riverwatch?

Oops! Wrong Hach Chemical Expiration Info Provided

The information provided in the last issue of *Riffles & Pools* was correct for the powdered chemicals in the Hach kits and GREEN Standard Water Monitoring kits. However, expirations for the Hach liquid chemicals were wrong. The good news is they last longer than we thought! As explained in the Summer 2001 issue, use the lot code to determine the date the liquid was made, then check the life span at 10-25 degrees Celcius:

Sodium Hydroxide - 40 months

Sodium Thiosulfate - 54 months

Sulfuric Acid - 60 months

Hoosier Riverwatch Volunteer Receives National Award

Congratulations to Ken Brunswick, Friends of the Limberlost, for his receipt of a 2001 National Wetlands Award. Ken was one of seven outstanding individuals from across the county honored in Washington D.C. for his extraordinary commitment to the conservation and restoration of our nation's wetlands.



5 New Adopt-A-River Groups!

Danville United Methodist

White Lick Creek, Danville

Krueger Middle School

Trail Creek (Michigan City)

Monaghan Family

White River (Indianapolis)

Pathway Productions

White River (Indianapolis)

Waldron Middle/High School

Big Blue River (Shelbyville)



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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